IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract on page 19 as follows:

ABSTRACT

Improved process for producing silane crosslinked polyethylene

The present invention is directed to a process for producing silane crosslinked (cured) polyethylene in which a polyethylene is grafted with a silane comprising at least one ethylenic double bond to a silane crosslinkable polyethylene which is then subjected to a crosslinking (curing) step, characterized in that the process comprises the following process steps:

a) a sample is taken from the silane crosslinkable polyethylene before the curing step,
b) the sample is processed into a film,
c) the film is analyzed by Infrared Spectroscopy,
d) a predefined area of the IR spectrum is determined and
e) the area determined in step d) is correlated with the gel content in the silane crosslinked polyethylene after the curing step using a predetermined regression curve.

~~Figure 1.~~